



Submitted Date: 9/22/2010 7:25:50 PM

Easygrants ID: 399

Funding Opportunity: Category One	Applicant Organization: Lassen County Fire Safe Council
Task: Submit Application Non-EO	Applicant Name: Mr. Thomas W. Esgate



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Funding Opportunity: Category One	Applicant Organization: Lassen County Fire Safe Council
Task: Submit Application Non-EO	Applicant Name: Mr. Thomas W. Esgate

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION	
Name	Mr. Thomas W. Esgate,
Title	Managing Director
Organization	Lassen County Fire Safe Council
Primary Address	PO Box 816, , , Susanville, CA, 96130
Primary Phone/Fax	530-310-0146 Ext.
Primary Email	twesgate@sbcglobal.net

Name	Mr. Thomas W. Esgate,
Title	Managing Director
Organization	Lassen County Fire Safe Council
Primary Address	PO Box 816, , , Susanville, CA, 96130
Primary Phone/Fax	530-310-0146 Ext.
Primary Email	twesgate@sbcglobal.net



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PROJECT INFORMATION	
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Project Title	South Ash Valley Watershed Restoration Project
Brief Description	To restore watershed functions within a working landscape in the South Ash Valley Watershed. The landscape removal of western juniper on at least 625 acres of wet meadow/sagebrush steppe habitat. Significant benefits to wildlife habitat, rangeland health and watershed functions will result from the treatments proposed in the plan.
Total Requested Amount	250,000.00
Other Fund Proposed	35,000.00
Total Project Cost	285,000.00
Project Category	Site Improvement/Restoration
Project Area/Size	625
Project Area Type	Acres
Have you submitted to SNC this fiscal year?	No
Is this application related to other SNC funding?	No

Project Results

Restoration

Project Purpose	Project Purpose Percent
Habitat	



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County
Lassen

Sub Region
North



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Task: Submit Application Non-EO	Applicant Name: Mr. Thomas W. Esgate

PROJECT OTHER CONTACTS INFORMATION

Other Grant Project Contacts

Name:	Mr. Thomas W. Esgate,
Project Role:	Authorized Representative
Phone:	5303100146
Phone Ext:	
E-mail:	twesgate@sbcglobal.net

Name:	Mr. Thomas W. Esgate,
Project Role:	Day-to-Day Responsibility
Phone:	5303100146
Phone Ext:	
E-mail:	twesgate@sbcglobal.net

Name:	John T. Ketelsen,
Project Role:	County Administration
Phone:	0000
Phone Ext:	
E-mail:	coadmin@co.lassen.ca.us

Name:	Quality Control Board C. Valley Regional Water,
Project Role:	Water Agency 1 Contact
Phone:	5302244851
Phone Ext:	
E-mail:	dheiman@waterboardds.ca.gov



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PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION

Project Location

Address:	South Ash Valley, Spooner Trough Canyon, , Adin, CA,
96006 United States	
Water Agency:	C. Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Latitude:	N40 59'17.3
Longitude:	W120 41"12.1
Congressional District:	N/A
Senate:	N/A
Assembly:	N/A
Within City Limits:	No
City Name:	



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PROJECT BUDGET INFORMATION

Direct

Description	Num of Units	Per Unit Cost	Total
Juniper Removal by Licensed Timber Operator	625	400.00	250,000.00

Total Direct	250,000.00
Direct Detail	

Budget Grant Total: 250,000.00



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PROJECT OTHER SUPPORT INFORMATION

Other Support for the Sierra Nevada

Type : Volunteer Hours
Estimated Amount: 25,000.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours: 500
Source: Lassen County Resource Advisory Committee
Source Type: Other
Status: Pledged
Description: Lassen County Resource Advisory Committee for Project Management, Project Monitoring and Performance Reporting. 500 hours by \$50.00 an hour

Type : Volunteer Hours
Estimated Amount: 10,000.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours: 400
Source: Landowner In-Kind Contribution
Source Type: Other
Status: Intend to Apply
Description: Landowner In-kind Contribution for Road Maintenance, 400 hours at \$25.00 per hour

**Estimated Total Amount of
Resources Leveraged**

35,000.00



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PROJECT REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Regulatory Requirements

Description:	Board of director Resolution No 2010-1, approving the application for grant funds from the SNC. Approved on 8/30/2010
Status:	Received
Agency Contact Name:	Thomas Esgate
Anticipated Approval/Submitted Date:	08/30/2010



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PROJECT TIMELINE INFORMATION

Project Timeline

Milestone/Activity: Quarterly Performance Report
Description:
Expected Date: 08/31/2010
Deliverable: True

Milestone/Activity: Quarterly Performance Report
Description:
Expected Date: 11/30/2011
Deliverable: True

Milestone/Activity: Removal of Juniper
Description: Removal of juniper from at least 625 acres within the South Ash Valley watershed
Expected Date: 12/30/2011
Deliverable: True

Milestone/Activity: Final Performance Report
Description:
Expected Date: 02/29/2012
Deliverable: True



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PROJECT PEER REVIEWER INFORMATION

Reviewers



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UPLOADS

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name
Completed Checklist
Table of Contents
Application Form
Authorization to Apply or Resolution
Articles of Incorporation (Non-Profit Organization)
Bylaws (Non-Profit Organizations Only)
IRS Tax Letter (Non-Profit Organizations Only)
Project Summary
Evaluation Criteria Narrative
Detailed Budget Form



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Performance Measures
Environmental Setting and Impacts
Project Location Map
Parcel Map Showing County Assessors Parcel Number
Topographic Map
Site Plan - Only Site Improv. or Restoration Proj.
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Land Tenure- Only for Site Improvement Projects



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Leases or Agreements
CEQA Documentation
Regulatory Requirements or Permits
Letters of Support

To preserve the integrity of the uploaded document, headers, footers and page numbers have not been added by the system.

Application Checklist for Category One Grants

Project Name: South Ash Valley Watershed Restoration Project

Applicant: Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.

Please mark each box: check if item is included in the application; mark "N/A" if not applicable to the project. Please consult with SNC staff prior to submission if you have any questions about the applicability to your project of any items on the checklist. All applications must include a CD including an electronic file of each checklist item, if applicable. The naming convention for each electronic file is listed after each item on the checklist. (Electronic File Name = EFN: "naming convention". file extension choices)

1. ☒ Completed Checklist (EFN: *Checklist.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
2. ☒ Table of Contents (EFN: *TOC.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
3. ☒ Application Form (EFN: *AppForm.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
4. ☒ Authorization to Apply or Resolution (EFN: *AuthRes. doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
- 5a. ☒ Articles of Incorporation [501(c)(3)s only] (EFN: *ArtInc.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
- 5b. ☒ Bylaws [501(c)(3)s only] (EFN: *Bylaws.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
- 5c. ☒ Tax Exempt Status Letter from the Internal Revenue Service [501(c)(3)s only] (EFN: *IRS.doc, .docx, .rtf, .pdf*)
6. ☒ Project Summary (Two page maximum) (ENF: *ProjSum.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
7. ☒ Evaluation Criteria Narrative (ENF: *EvalCrit.doc, .docx, .rtf, .pdf*)
8. ☒ Detailed Budget Form (ENF: *Budget.xls, .xlsx*)
9. ☒ Long Term Management Plan (no EFN - included in the Evaluation Criteria Narrative)
10. ☒ Performance Measures (ENF: *Perform.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf*)
11. ☒ Environmental Setting and Impacts (ENF: *EnvSetImp.docs, .docx, .rtf, .pdf*)
12. ☒ Project Location Map (ENF: *LocMap.pdf*)
13. ☒ Parcel Map showing County Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (ENF: *ParcelMap.pdf*)
14. ☒ Topographic Map (ENF: *Topo.pdf*)
15. ☒ Site Plan (Site improvement/restoration projects) (ENF: *SitePlan.pdf*)
16. ☒ Photos of the Project Site (10 maximum) (ENF: *Photo.jpg, .gif*)
17. ☐ Acquisition Schedule (Acquisition projects) (ENF: *AcqSched.doc, .docx, .rtf, .pdf*) N/A
18. ☐ Willing Seller Letter (Acquisition projects) (ENF: *WillSell.pdf*) N/A
19. ☒ Land Tenure (For site improvement/restoration projects) (ENF: *Tenure.pdf*)
20. ☒ Leases or Agreements (ENF: *LeaseAgrmnt.pdf*)
21. ☒ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation (ENF: *CEQA.pdf*)
22. ☐ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation (ENF: *NEPA.pdf*) N/A
23. ☒ Regulatory Requirements / Permits (ENF: *RegPermit.pdf*)
24. ☒ Demonstrations of Support (ENF: *DOS.pdf*)
25. ☐ Real Estate Appraisal (Acquisition projects) (ENF: *Appraisal.pdf*) N/A

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**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PROPOSITION 84 GRANT APPLICATION FORM
CATEGORY ONE GRANTS**

Complete all applicable items on both pages of form.

1. PROJECT NAME

South Ash Valley Watershed Restoration Project

2. REFERENCE NUMBER

3. APPLICANT *(Agency name, address, and zip code)*

Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 816

Susanville, CA 96130

4. APPLICANT TYPE:

☒ Nonprofit Organization ☐ Government

☐ Tribal Organization

5. APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Name and title – type or print

Phone

Email Address

☒ Mr. Thomas W. Esgate, Managing Director

(530) 310-0146

twesgate@sbcglobal.net

☐ Ms.

6. PERSON WITH DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRANT

(If different from Authorized Representative)

Name and title – type or print

Phone

Email Address

☐ Mr.

☐ Ms.

7. PERSON WITH FISCAL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT CONTRACT/INVOICING

(If different from Authorized Representative or Day to Day Administrator)

Name and title – type or print

Phone

Email Address

☐ Mr.

☐ Ms.

8. FUNDING INFORMATION

SNC Grant Request

\$ 250,000

(Must be \$5,000 - \$1,000,000)

Other Funds

\$ 35,000

Total Project Cost

\$ 285,000

9. PROJECT CATEGORIES

☒ **Site Improvement** *(fill in all that apply)*

Project Area: South Ash Valley

Total Acres: 625+

SNC Portion (if different):

Total Miles (i.e. river or stream bank):

SNC Portion (if different):

9a. DELIVERABLES

(Select one primary deliverable)

☒ Restoration

☐ Enhancement

☐ Resource Protection

☐ Infrastructure Development / Improvement

☐ **Acquisition** *(fill in all that apply)*

Project Area:

Total Acres:

SNC Portion (if different):

Total Miles (i.e. river or stream bank):

SNC Portion (if different):

(Select one primary deliverable)

☐ Fee Title

☐ Easement or Other Landowner Agreement

10. PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION <i>(Include zip code)</i> South Ash Valley, Spooner Trough Canyon, Adin, CA 96006			
11. LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE N 40 59'17.3" W120 41'12.1"			
12. COUNTY Lassen County, CA	13. CITY <i>(Is project within city limits? If so, which one?)</i> No, closest city Adin, CA 15 miles to the N/NW		
14. NEAREST PUBLIC WATER AGENCY (OR AGENCIES) CONTACT INFORMATION: Name: Lassen County District #1 - Bieber Phone Number: (530) 294-5524, S. Jackson Email address:			
Name: C. Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Phone Number: (530) 224-4851 D. Heiman Email address: dheiman@waterboards.ca.gov			
15. CEQA OR NEPA DOCUMENT TYPE (if applicable) <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption <input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Finding of No Significant Impact <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Joint CEQA/NEPA Document </td> </tr> </table>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption <input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Finding of No Significant Impact <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Joint CEQA/NEPA Document
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Exemption <input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Finding of No Significant Impact <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Joint CEQA/NEPA Document		
16. STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER N/A: Notice of Exemption filed by Lassen County Community Development Dept. w/ County Clerk			
17. APPRAISAL <input type="checkbox"/> Submittal with application <input type="checkbox"/> Submittal by _____			

I certify that the information contained in the Application, including required attachments, is accurate.


 Signed (Authorized Representative)

9/12/2010
 Date

Thomas W. Esgate, Managing Director
 Name and Title (print or type)

For grant application coming from

Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.

Board of Directors Resolution No. 2010 - 1

In the matter of: A RESOLUTION
APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR
GRANT FUNDS FROM THE SIERRA
NEVADA CONSERVANCY
PROPOSITION 84 GRANTS PROGRAM
UNDER THE SAFE DRINKING WATER,
WATER QUALITY AND SUPPLY, FLOOD
CONTROL, RIVER AND COASTAL
PROTECTION BOND ACT OF 2006.

Resolution No. 2010-1

Date: 8/30/10

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Directors of the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. at a regular meeting held August 30, 2010 by the following vote:

Ayes: 5

Noes: 0

Abstentions: 1

Absent: 1

Signed and approved by:



Chairperson, Board of Directors

WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor of the State of California have provided Funds for the program shown above; and

WHEREAS, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of a portion of these funds through a local assistance grants program, establishing necessary procedures; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicant's governing board before submission of said application(s) to the SNC; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant, if selected, will enter into an agreement with the SNC to carry out the project; and

WHEREAS, the Lassen County Fire Safe Council has identified the South Ash Valley Watershed Restoration Project as valuable toward meeting its mission and goals

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. that this Board:

1. Approves the submittal of an application for the South Ash Valley Watershed Restoration Project; and
2. Certifies that Applicant understands the assurances and certification requirements in the application; and
3. Certifies that Applicant or title holder will have sufficient funds to operate and maintain the resources(s) consistent with the long-term benefits described in support of the application; or will secure the resources to do so; and
4. Certifies that Applicant will comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process; and
5. Appoint Tom Esgate, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to: applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. on the 30th day of August 2010.

3) Articles of Incorporation

The Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. has applied for and received funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy during past grant cycles and provided a copy of the Articles of Incorporation. SNC has these documents on file. These files are current and no changes have been made.

4) Bylaws

The Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. has applied for and received funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy during past grant cycles and provided a copy of the Bylaws. SNC has these documents on file. These files are current and no changes have been made.



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati OH 45201

In reply refer to: 0248323016
Nov. 06, 2009 LTR 4168C E0
13-4209663 000000 00
00015451
BODC: TE

LASSEN COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL
% THOMAS D GAUTHIER
PO BOX 816
SUSANVILLE CA 96130-0816



024454

Employer Identification Number: 13-4209663
Person to Contact: Yvette Davis
Toll Free Telephone Number: 1-877-829-5500

Dear Taxpayer:

This is in response to your Oct. 28, 2009, request for information regarding your tax-exempt status.

Our records indicate that your organization was recognized as exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in April 2003.

Our records also indicate that you are not a private foundation within the meaning of section 509(a) of the Code because you are described in section(s) 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi).

Donors may deduct contributions to you as provided in section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.

Beginning with the organization's sixth taxable year and all succeeding years, it must meet one of the public support tests under section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) or section 509(a)(2) as reported on Schedule A of the Form 990. If your organization does not meet the public support test for two consecutive years, it is required to file Form 990-PF, Return of Private Foundation, for the second tax year that the organization failed to meet the support test and will be reclassified as a private foundation.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

PROJECT SUMMARY

County: Lassen County, CA

Applicant: Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.

Project Title: South Ash Valley Watershed Restoration Project

PROJECT GOAL

The goal of this project is to restore watershed functions (capture, storage of water in soil, and beneficial release) within a working landscape in the South Ash Valley Watershed at the headwaters of Ash Creek, a tributary to the Pit River, in Lassen County. This will be accomplished through the landscape scale removal of invasive western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) on at least 625 acres of wet meadow and sagebrush steppe habitat. This project specifically addresses the Proposition 84 goal of restoring watersheds and their associated land, water, and natural resources and will address several SNC programmatic goals by: restoring the Region's physical and living resources; aiding in the preservation of working landscapes; reducing the risk of natural disasters, such as wildfires; improving water quality; and assisting the Regional economy.

PROJECT SCOPE

This project is being implemented by the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LCFSC) Cooperative Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative (CSSRI), a partnership of local government, non-profit and tribal groups that have already restored more than 7,500 watershed acres over the past 6 years.

The primary restoration activities are the removal of invasive western juniper on at least 625 acres through biomass utilization and the implementation of adaptive range management techniques across a working landscape.

The proposed project will occur on approximately 1178 acres of private land in two adjacent parcels on the Ash Valley Ranch, approximately 20 miles southwest of Adin, CA in Lassen County. Approximately 625 acres of the two parcels will be treated.

Fire suppression and rangeland management practices over the last 150 years have resulted in the rapid expansion of western juniper into neighboring plant communities causing considerable concern because of: increased soil erosion; potential reduced stream flows; reduced forage production; altered wildlife habitat; changes in plant community composition, structure, and biodiversity; increased hazardous fuel loads and has resulted in the replacement of mesic and semi-arid plant communities with juniper woodlands (>10% tree canopy) (Miller et al. 2005).

The South Ash Valley area is a prime example of juniper encroachment into wet meadow and sagebrush steppe habitats. Significant benefits to wildlife habitat, rangeland health, and watershed functions will result from the treatments proposed in this plan.

Fuel loads will be reduced by mechanical methods on approximately 625 acres. Targeted fuel is approximately 98% juniper, 2% deformed, dying or overstocked Jeffrey pine in

need of thinning and a minor amount of decrepit mountain mahogany. All old growth junipers will be retained.

Fuel will be removed by shear and chainsaw. Part of the proposed treatment prescription involves minimizing the development of skid trails by attempting to skid across the entire landscape. This results in a treatment where there is maximum shrub and perennial grass retention and less soil compaction overall. Maximum retention of shrubs and grasses also results in less soil erosion.

After removal, most of the material will be chipped and hauled to an electrical power producing facility to be used as fuel. After the mechanical treatments are completed, hand crews will remove smaller junipers or other junipers that were not able to be cut mechanically.

The project is part of the larger CSSRI initiative that is currently implementing \$1.4 million dollars of watershed restoration projects across Lassen County with funding from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts. The initiative's project management, project monitoring, and performance measure reporting needs are being funded with Title II Secure Rural Schools Act funds approved by the Lassen County Resource Advisory Committee, a sign of local and regional support. Currently a NRCS CCPI/EQIP contract and a USFWS PFW contract are restoring 300-400 acres within the area, so we hope that the SNC funds would complete the treatment.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

The CSSRI has established an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with a wide variety of project partners in support of the overall goal of restoring native habitats through the removal of invasive western juniper (see attachment). The Susanville Indian Rancheria (SIR) and the Lassen County Board of Supervisors have provided letters of support.

SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Quarterly Performance Report	August 2011
Quarterly Performance Report	November 2011
Removal of juniper from at least 625 acres within the South Ash Valley watershed	December 2011
Final Performance Report	February 2012

SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Contracts/Consultants – Mechanical/Hand Thinning Western Juniper Removal by a Licensed Timber Operator (LTO)	\$250,000
SNC GRANT TOTAL	\$250,000

7) Evaluation Criteria Narrative

A. Project Quality and Readiness

i. General Description

The goal of this project is to restore watershed functions (capture, storage of water in soil, and beneficial release) within a working landscape in the South Ash Valley Watershed at the headwaters of Ash Creek, a tributary to the Pit River, in Lassen County. This will be accomplished through the landscape scale removal of invasive western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) on at least 625 acres of wet meadow and sagebrush steppe habitat. This project specifically addresses the Proposition 84 goal of restoring watersheds and their associated land, water, and natural resources and will address several SNC programmatic goals by: restoring the Region's physical and living resources; aiding in the preservation of working landscapes; reducing the risk of natural disasters, such as wildfires; improving water quality; and assisting the Regional economy.

This project is being implemented by the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LCFSC) Cooperative Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative (CSSRI), a partnership of local government, non-profit and tribal groups that have already restored more than 6,000 watershed acres over the past 6 years. CSSRI has completed 10 landscape scale site specific restoration plans, this being one, and a 2.2 million acre regional restoration plan. The planning effort was funded with financial support from NRCS, the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board, the Pit RCD, Susanville Indian Rancheria, LCFSC and the Lassen County RAC.

The primary restoration activities are the removal of invasive western juniper on at least 625 acres through biomass utilization and the implementation of adaptive range management techniques across a working landscape of public and private land.

The proposed project will occur on approximately 1178 acres of private land in two adjacent parcels on the Ash Valley Ranch, approximately 20 miles southwest of Adin, CA in Lassen County. Approximately 625 acres of the two parcels will be treated.

Fire suppression and rangeland management practices over the last 150 years have resulted in the rapid expansion of western juniper into neighboring plant communities causing considerable concern because of: increased soil erosion; potential reduced stream flows; reduced forage production; altered wildlife habitat; changes in plant community composition, structure, and biodiversity; increased hazardous fuel loads and has resulted in the replacement of mesic and semi-arid plant communities with juniper woodlands (>10% tree canopy) (Miller et al. 2005).

The Ash Valley area is a prime example of juniper encroachment into wet meadow and sagebrush steppe habitats. Significant benefits to wildlife habitat, rangeland health, and watershed functions will result from the treatments proposed in this plan.

Fuel loads will be reduced by mechanical methods on approximately 625 acres. Targeted fuel is approximately 98% juniper, 2% deformed, dying or overstocked Jeffrey pine in need of thinning and a minor amount of decrepit mountain mahogany. All old growth juniper will be retained. Old growth will be defined by the character of the juniper, not its size. Old growth characteristics include broad irregular tops and incised bark. Old growth is often accompanied with moss. Most juniper that is conical in shape is not considered old growth.

Fuel will be removed by shear and chainsaw. Part of the proposed treatment prescription involves minimizing the development of skid trails by attempting to skid across the entire landscape. This results in a treatment where there is maximum shrub and perennial grass retention and less soil compaction overall. Maximum retention of shrubs and grasses also results in less soil erosion.

After removal, most of the material will be chipped and hauled to an electrical power producing facility to be used as fuel. After the mechanical treatments are completed, hand crews will remove smaller junipers or other junipers that were not able to be cut mechanically.

The project is part of the larger CSSRI initiative that is currently implementing \$1.4 million dollars of watershed restoration projects across Lassen County with funding from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts. The initiative's project management, project monitoring, and performance measure reporting needs are being funded with Title II Secure Rural Schools Act funds approved by the Lassen County Resource Advisory Committee, a sign of local and regional support. Currently a NRCS CCPI/EQIP contract and a USFWS PFW contract are restoring 300-400 acres within the area, so we hope that the SNC funds would complete the treatment.

ii. Workplan and Schedule

- b. The primary action will be reducing fuel loads by mechanical methods on approximately 625 acres of private land within the project area. All the work is adjacent to Bureau of Land Management administered public lands. Targeted fuel is approximately 98% juniper, 2% deformed, dying or overstocked Jeffrey pine in need of thinning and a minor amount of decrepit mountain mahogany. All old growth juniper will be retained. Old growth will be defined by the character of the juniper, not its size. Old growth characteristics include broad irregular tops and incised bark. Old growth is often accompanied with moss. Most juniper that is conical in shape is not considered old growth.

Juniper removal will be done by a private chipping contractor who will gain ownership of the material as part of his contract. The price the contractor receives when he sells the material will not cover his costs so he will be paid a

subsidy. We estimate the total cost for the juniper removal work will run \$400 per acre. In the event costs come in lower, we will treat more acres within the project area. All of the projects administered by the Lassen County Fire Safe Council and the Cooperative Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative (CSSRI) have resulted in more acres being treated than proposed. All work is scheduled to be completed by the end 2011.

Fuel will be removed by shear and chainsaw. Part of our treatment prescription involves minimizing the development of skid trails by attempting to skid across the entire landscape. This results in a treatment where there is maximum shrub and perennial grass retention and less soil compaction overall. Maximum retention of shrubs and grasses also results in less soil erosion potential and faster reestablishment of native grasses and shrubs. In the summer of 2006 Resource Specialists from the Modoc, Lassen and Plumas National Forests, the BLM Alturas and Eagle Lake Field Offices and NRCS reviewed previously completed CSSRI pilot projects and reinforced the validity of our skidding prescription. Most recently, Modoc National Forest staff have communicated to CSSRI that projects in Oregon are now adopting similar prescriptions because they have found that the skid trails have a propensity for becoming noxious weed plots in sagebrush steppe restoration treatments. Our project is also part of nationally sponsored demonstration project resulting in a treatment prescription developed by CSSRI into a United States Department of Agriculture/NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). It is currently being used for sagebrush steppe/juniper restoration treatments throughout the western United States. After removal, most of the material will be chipped and hauled to an electrical power producing facility to be used as fuel. All the aforementioned work will be accomplished through a contract with a private Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) who is regulated under the California Forest Practice Act.

After the mechanical treatments are completed hand crews will remove smaller junipers or other junipers that could not be cut mechanically. CSSRI has entered into an assistance agreement with CalFire Conservation Crews (CFCC) to perform the hand work on CSSRI projects. CFCC will also perform hand treatments within zones where mechanical equipment can not operate.

The cooperating landowner will provide an in-kind contribution worth approximately \$10,000.00 to maintain access roads, haul roads, and roads within the project area. In addition, the landowner will implement an adaptive management grazing system. The system will allow the rancher to control timing and grazing use of the project area to optimize restoration and sustainability. The CSSRI, with assistance from the NRCS and the University of California, Cooperative Extension, Lassen County Field Office, has developed a guide for livestock operators implementing juniper removal projects that includes adaptive management strategies.

Deliverables include the restoration of at least 625 acres of sagebrush steppe and wet meadow habitat and implementation of adaptive range management grazing prescriptions that are supplied by NRCS in consultation with the Alturas BLM Field Office that are funded through NRCS, CSSRI and private landowner resources.

- c. There are no factors affecting project's timeline. The entire project has been planned over a two year period and all environmental and permitting clearances have been obtained. SNC funded portions of the project will be implemented during the field season of 2011 with all work completed before December 2011.

iii. Budget

- a. Restoration treatment costs are based on \$400 per acre. A \$25,000 match from the Lassen County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will be used for Project management, project monitoring, and performance reporting. The cooperating landowner will provide an in-kind contribution worth approximately \$10,000.00 to maintain access roads, haul roads, and roads within the project area. In addition, the landowner will implement an adaptive management grazing system.

- b. Source and amount of funds committed:

SNC	\$250,000
Lassen County RAC	\$ 25,000
<u>Landowner In-Kind Costshare</u>	<u>\$ 10,000</u>
Total: \$285,000	

- c. LCFSC/CSSRI will hire and manage the LTO performed restoration work. Structural and management practices, including the implementation of the long term adaptive range management grazing prescriptions will be the responsibility of the cooperating private landowner/permittee. NRCS is providing the grazing prescription in consultation with BLM.

All funds, with the exception of those supplied by SNC, are currently available. Funds made available through SNC will be put to work and expended during the summer of 2011. All work will be completed by the end of 2011.

- d. SNC funding is sufficient to complete the project. Project depends on other funding sources that have already been secured. There is not an issue as to whether it can proceed without them or if the project can be implemented by itself with SNC funds. SNC funds will treat additional acres that have already received environmental clearances.

- e. No other state funds are being used as a match for this project.
 - f. CSSRI has been able to produce cost-effective projects that are equivalent or below the cost of similar projects due to project experience, partnerships, and the landscape scale approach that is implemented
- iv. Restrictions, technical documents, and agreements**
- a. Project partners have committed funds and are ready to implement this project.
 - b. N/A
 - c. N/A
 - d. N/A
 - e. No property restrictions and/or encumbrances exist within the project area.
 - f. The project area is not under the Williamson Act.
 - g. No additional permits are required to implement this project.

B. Proposition 84 Land and Water Benefits

Western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) currently occupies over 2.5 million acres of rangeland in northeastern California. This constitutes a ten-fold expansion of juniper range over the past 130 years. It is generally agreed that this increase is the result of fire suppression and livestock grazing management. Studies have shown that the conversion of sagebrush steppe biome to juniper woodland and juniper encroachment into the eastside forests is having deleterious impacts on our watersheds, soils and wildlife habitat. The climax condition of the expanding juniper community often becomes one of complete dominance where virtually all other forbs and forage disappear, springs dry up and erosion accelerates. Resource agencies agree that invasive juniper has had a destructive effect on sage grouse, mule deer, elk and sand hill crane habitat. Thick stands of juniper also pose a substantial risk of wildfire that could threaten lives and property. Watersheds are suffering severe degradation from the expansion of juniper throughout the west.

The project area is primarily sagebrush steppe uplands with wet meadows that have been severely encroached by western juniper. The restoration of these ecosystems through the removal of juniper and the implementation of adaptive range management techniques will restore watershed functions (capture, storage of water in soil, and beneficial release) and re-establish the native plant community. This will result in a beneficial impact on land and water.

The reduction of hazardous fuel loads will reduce the threat of a catastrophic fire that could have a devastating impact on the watershed.

C. SNC Program Goals

1. The Project area supports critical wildlife habitat. Restoration of the habitat will provide enhanced opportunities for hunting and non-take wildlife

activities such as bird and wildlife watching. These tourist related activities have significant impacts on the local economy.

2. Project will restore the soil, plant communities and watershed function, including improved water quality and quantity.
3. Any cultural resources within the project area will be avoided and preserved.
4. The restoration efforts will ensure that this historic working landscape can continue to function in an environmentally beneficial fashion. The structural practices and grazing prescriptions provided by the project partners will ensure that the cattle operation is compatible with our goal of enhancing wildlife habitat and watershed function.
5. The reduction of the hazardous fuel loads provided by the juniper removal will reduce the threat of catastrophic fire within the project area and the adjacent wildland urban interface.
6. Northeast California is an area where the current forest products industry can best be described as in a state of severe depression. Lumber mills continue to close, components are auctioned off and the mills are being dismantled. The United States Forest Service's Sierra Nevada Framework FEIS identified this area as an area where more than 50% of those employed would lose their jobs because of severe restrictions to grazing and timber harvesting activity. With the decline of the timber industry, the availability of chips and waste wood to produce clean electrical power has diminished. This project can be considered an important source of fuel for local renewable power producing facilities. This and LCFSC's other biomass power producing restoration projects are becoming a catalyst to help bring back needed rural employment opportunities in the forest resource sector.
7. Much of the project area is accessible to the public and restoration of the land and watershed will make public use much more enjoyable.

D. Cooperation and Community Support

1. Community support and project partners. The LCFSC *Cooperative Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative* (CSSRI) was formed to address conditions and management challenges associated with the expansion of western juniper into the sagebrush steppe and eastside forest biomes in Northeastern California and identify strategies to address those challenges. CSSRI began in 2002 when we commenced joint planning and implementation of landscape scale woody biomass fuel reduction and watershed restoration projects with the Susanville Indian Rancheria (SIR), the Pit Resource Conservation District (PRCD) and private landowners. The initiative was established to restore degraded sagebrush steppe and associated eastside pine habitat through the removal of invasive western juniper. Fire suppression and rangeland management practices over the last 150 years have resulted in the rapid expansion of western juniper into neighboring plant communities causing considerable concern because of increased soil erosion, potential reduced stream flows, reduced forage production, altered wildlife habitat, changes in plant community composition, structure, and biodiversity and increased hazardous fuel loads. It has resulted in the replacement of mesic and semi-arid plant communities with juniper woodlands (>10% tree canopy)

(Miller et al. 2005). We began our initiative when local ranchers were coming to our meetings to ask for seed money and in-kind matches to attract larger grant investments for biomass fuel reduction projects. These projects offered significant wildlife habitat and watershed benefits and a “shot in the arm” for our declining forest products sector. Our early partnered landscape scale projects included South Knob, 3,300+ acres; Ash Valley, 890 acres; and Parks Ranch, 930 acres; a total of almost 5,000 completed acres to date. The Pit RCD contributed \$13,500 dollars in “seed money” to the three projects which produced over 60,000 total bone dry tons of biomass that was used as renewable energy fuel in the production of electricity.

In 2004 we formalized our partnership and applied for NRCS Conservation Partnership Initiative Planning (CPI) funds. We were unsuccessful in ‘04 but in 2005 we were one of 8 projects selected for funding nationwide; Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)/Conservation Partnership Initiative Grant, #65-9104-5-516. Through the CPI funding we have completed 10 site specific plans and a general plan and strategy, covering 2.1 million acres.

In 2006 we expanded the CSSRI partnership to include University of California Cooperative Extension and Burney Forest Power, and in 2007, Day Lassen Bench Fire Safe Council, Inc. as Principal Partners. In addition, every resource agency and the County Boards of Supervisors are considered partners and all have actively participated and supported our efforts. We’ve also received solid support from our Congressman and Senators Feinstein and Boxer. The CPI funding gave us the capacity to begin to put together projects and acquire implementation funds. In 2006 we achieved one of our greatest successes when we were awarded a \$500,000 NRCS Conservation Innovative Grant (CIG) to test and prove the biomass utilization/restoration prescriptions that we began developing in our landscape scale pilot projects. The grant also required us to write a prescription for the USDA/NRCS Field Office Technical Guide which is used throughout the western United States for restoration of ecosystems impacted by invasive western juniper. To date we have acquired over 2.8 million dollars for use in the restoration of at least an additional 8,000 acres over the next two years.

The partnership’s Strategy has been developed based on initial findings of the joint United States Forest Service/Bureau of Land Management *Juniper Management Strategy*, and stakeholder and agency input, and other existing information. Emphasis is placed on opportunities to implement landscape scale treatments in targeted areas to benefit water quality, aquatic and wildlife habitat, and range and forest health. Additional emphasis is placed on treatments within the Wildland Urban Interface that will reduce the threat that wildfires pose to watersheds, communities and infrastructure.

The Strategy and the individual site specific plans are being used to obtain cost share assistance from programs such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners in Fish and Wildlife and Private Stewardship Grants, United

States Forest Service Woody Biomass Grants, California Fire Safe Council Clearinghouse Grants, National Fire Plan focused grants, and now the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

2. Throughout the 22 month CPI planning process numerous public meetings were held in Modoc and Lassen Counties. Public scoping and partner outreach in September of 2005 and the following agencies and organizations were consulted in the process (and hundreds of individuals): Honey Lake Resource Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, University of California Cooperative Extension, Lassen County Agricultural Commissioner, California Department of Fish and Game, Big Valley Chambers of Commerce, Pit River Alliance, California Biomass Energy Alliance, Big Valley/Fall River Cattlemen's Association, North Cal-Neva RC&D, Lassen County Fish and Game Commission, Big Valley High School, Lassen County Farm Bureau, Susan River Fire Protection District, City of Susanville Fire Department, Modoc and Lassen County Supervisors, U.S. House of Representatives Resource Committee Staff, California US Senators.
3. There has not been any opposition to any of our completed or planned projects, only strong support.
4. CSSRI has given, and will continue to, presentations in area schools on the need to restore our watersheds and reduce hazardous fuel loads. The SNC will be incorporated into our program. A version of our presentation was presented to the SNC board in May of 2007.
5. CSSRI goals and objectives are supported and tie into the Honey Lake RCD Long range Plan, Pit Resource Conservation District Watershed Strategy and the Lassen County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and General Plan.
6. LCFSC and CSSRI produce newsletters and press releases that are covered in area newspapers. We also use our website and partner websites to communicate. We also make presentations at state and national conferences.

E. Project Design, Management, and Sustainability

- a. LCFSC will be the fiscal agent for the SNC grant and is currently the fiscal agent for the Lassen County RAC funds.
- b. LCFSC and our CSSRI partnership have successfully managed and completed over \$2,000,000 in forest health and sagebrush steppe restoration projects over the last five years. Our project was developed and will be administered with the assistance of our contract staff that includes a NRCS Certified Conservation Planner, Wildlife Biologist, Botanist and a Registered Professional Forester. Our staff has the capacity to manage the project. All our projects have been completed on time, within budget and have restored more acres than the deliverables required.

- c.
- i. D.2. described the upfront planning process adequately.
 - ii. LCFSC and our CSSRI partnership have successfully managed and completed over \$2,000,000 in forest health and sagebrush steppe restoration projects over the last five years. Our project was developed and will be administered with the assistance of our contract staff that includes a NRCS Certified Conservation Planner, Wildlife Biologist, Botanist and a Registered Professional Forester. Our staff has the capacity to manage the project. All our projects have been completed on time, within budget and have restored more acres than the deliverables required.
 - iii. Our Sagebrush steppe restoration prescriptions were developed with the support of NRCS, USFWS, USFS and BLM.
 - iv. All of our completed projects have had a minimum impact on natural resources and cultural resources have been preserved. This project was modeled after those projects. Extensive archaeological surveys have been conducted for this project to ensure cultural resource will be preserved.
 - v. Our juniper treatment restoration projects are sustainable with no maintenance for at least 25 years. The restoration treatments can be maintained in perpetuity if followed by minor hand treatments or prescribed or natural fire within a 25-30 year cycle.
 - vi. CSSRI has developed a monitoring protocol for evaluating the effects of western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) treatment to restore sagebrush scrub habitat. This includes evaluating changes in the richness, density, and percent cover of herbaceous and woody perennial plant species as well as changes in tree species density and canopy cover pre- and post-treatment.

Random 100 meter transects will be selected throughout each project site in order to monitor vegetation changes on the majority of soil types, slopes, aspect and different treatment techniques represented within the treatment area. For each transect that is established within the treatment area, a reciprocal transect with similar soil type, slope and aspect will be established within a non-treated area to act as a control. Wooden stakes will be flagged, marked, and placed to delineate the transects at 0m, 50m (midpoint), and 100m. The GPS location and compass bearing of each transect's beginning and end will be recorded to ensure the same transects can be revisited for future data collection and analysis. Color photographs of each transect at the 0m and 100m mark will be taken pre- and post-treatment and used as photopoints.

In order to monitor changes in herbaceous plant species richness, density and cover and to monitor changes in the percent cover of woody perennial species, data will be collected from 1 meter squared (1m^2) quadrats placed along the 100 meter transects. The data recorded from each quadrat will include a complete species list in order to determine the richness of each site (species/ m^2), plant count in order to determine the density (native species/ m^2) and an ocular estimation of cover to determine the percent cover for each species rooted within the square-

meter quadrat, as well as percent cover estimates for bare ground, rocks, vegetative litter, and animal disturbance.

Quadrat placement will be determined along each line transect using a random numbers table. A meter-squared ½" PVC pipe quadrat will be placed at the specified distances on the transect, with the midpoint of the apparatus straddling the transect measuring tape. Plants rooted within the quadrat will be evaluated for richness, density, and percent cover and recorded on data sheets. Unknown plant species will be collected for identification and invasive noxious weeds identified by the State of California will be noted.

Richness, density, and percent cover data will be collected in 20-quadrats along each 100 meter transect. Based on previous data collected within Northeastern California sagebrush scrub habitats and western juniper woodlands, CSSRI has determined that 20 quadrats collected along the 100 meter transect results in a greater than 80% confidence level and 80% precision using a two-tail t-test.

In order to monitor changes in the density of trees and woody perennial plant species, a 9x100m belt transect will be established along the same transect utilized for the quadrats. Each individual having >50% of its rooted base within the belt transect will be counted. Data will be recorded by species and age class. Age class of each individual will be identified as either dead, immature-seedling, resprout, or mature-adult.

Two methods will be used to determine tree canopy cover. A densiometer reading will be taken at the beginning of each quadrat along the 100 m transect in order to determine relative canopy cover. In addition, ArcGIS software, the Spatial Analyst extension, and National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) imagery will be used to calculate pre-treatment western juniper canopy cover.

Data will be collected along each line transect prior to treatment, post treatment, and annually for three years following treatment in order to monitor and evaluate treatment success in establishing sagebrush scrub habitat. All of this data will be reported to NRCS on an annual basis.

Data will be analyzed for transects within the treatment areas and compared to NRCS Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD) for the project area and the control transects to evaluate results. A Scientific Report will be developed describing areas treated, methods of treatment and monitoring, results, and evaluation of results.

In addition to data collected to evaluate project treatments on herbaceous and woody perennial plant species, CSSRI is developing a project in conjunction with the University of California Cooperative Extension, Lassen County Office and U.C. Davis with funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to assess soil moisture and vegetative response following western juniper removal. The

project consists of establishing riparian monitoring sites consisting of six soil moisture transects using soil sensors and data loggers to monitor volumetric water content of the soil, 18 cages to monitor vegetative productivity to see if more standing crop is available in treated vs. untreated areas, and six line transects to monitor plant composition to analyze whether riparian areas expand into upland areas post-treatment. At each site, half of these transects and cages will be in areas that will receive treatments and half will be in untreated areas. Little or no research has been conducted on how western juniper directly influences any of the specific components of the water budget for a given watershed (Miller et al, 2005). There is a significant amount of anecdotal evidence indicating that removal of western juniper results in increased water availability, expansion of riparian/meadow habitats, and increased vegetative productivity. This pilot project will result in scientific data that can be used to assess soil moisture and vegetative response following western juniper removal. CSSRI hopes to expand this project into additional sites if funding for treatments and project expansion are obtained.

2. Project allows for the long term sustainability of the land we are restoring. If the conversion of sagebrush steppe and wet meadow was allowed to continue erosion would accelerate and the watershed would continue to deteriorate. CSSRI is in the process of signing a 10 year agreement to continue our stewardship activities on Alturas Field Office BLM land. We plan to expand the project across public and private land within the Ash Creek Watershed. The BLM is planning a project adjacent to this proposed project.
3. A 20-year long term management agreement with the private landowner has been executed and has been provided to the SNC for previous funded grants.
 - a. Primary management activities consist of the implementation of adaptive management grazing prescriptions that will result in meeting sage grouse and other sagebrush obligate needs. Other management activities include the monitoring and treatment of any noxious weeds that may appear after the restoration activities are completed.
 - b. The private landowner/cooperator will perform the management. The Lassen County Agricultural Commissioner will assist with noxious weed monitoring and treatment.
 - c. Ongoing management will be funded through the private landowner's year in and year out cow calf cattle operation. The private landowner is an active participant in numerous conservation programs and receives high marks for being a progressive and conservation minded producer.
 - d. List of resources and references used to help develop management plan:

Bedell, T. E., L. E. Eddleman, T. Deboodt, and C. Jacks. 1993. Western juniper, its impact and management on Oregon rangelands. Oregon State University Extension Service, EC 1417.

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<http://www.blm.gov/nstc/library/pdf/samplveg.pdf>.

DeBoodt, T.L., M.P. Fischer, J.C. Buckhouse, and John Swanson. 2009. Monitoring Hydrological Changes Related to Western Juniper Removal: A Paired Watershed Approach. The Third Interagency Conference on Research in the Watersheds. Estes Park, CO.

Eddleman L. 2002. Establishment and development of broadcast seeded grasses under western juniper slash. *In* Range Field Day Progress Report, Department of Rangeland Resources, Oregon State University and EOARC. Range Sciences Report #5. Prineville, OR.

Gorenzel, Paul W., Sonke A. Mastrup, and E. Lee Fitzhugh. 1995. Characteristics of brushpiles used by birds in northern California. *The Southwestern Naturalist* 40(1):86-93.

Kuhn, Timothy J., Kenneth W. Tate, David Cao, and Melvin R. George. 2007. *California Agriculture*, 61(4):166-171.

Lile, D. F., D.L. Lancaster, R.G. Wilson. 2004. Juniper control strategies in northeastern California. *Proceedings 25th Vegetation and Forestry Management Conference*. Redding CA.

Miller, R.F., T J. Svejcar, and J.A. Rose. 2000. Impacts of western juniper on plant community composition and structure. *Journal of Range Management*. 53:574-585.

Miller, R.F., J.D. Bates, T.J. Svejcar, F.B. Pierson, L.E. Eddleman. 2005. Biology, ecology and management of western juniper. *Technical Bulletin 152*. Oregon State University, Agricultural Experiment Station.

Wilson, R., D. Lile, D. Drake, S. Orloff, D. Lancaster, H. George, R. Delmas and A. Bower. 2005. *Dryland Pastures: Establishment and Management in the Intermountain Region of Northern California*. University of California, ANR publication 8163.

- e. CSSRI is a unique partnership of federal, state, tribal, and local groups working to restore watershed and ecosystem functions through the removal of invasive western juniper. LCFSC's CSSRI partnership and all our sagebrush steppe restoration projects are already gaining national attention. Our Project Director was recently elected to a Board of Director's position for a western regional restoration partnership established by Sand County Foundation.
(see: <http://www.sandcounty.net/programs/cbcn/sagewise/>).

We are cross sharing information with the parallel BLM/USFS initiative that is focusing on federal lands. Resource managers and wildlife officials are excited to learn of CSSRI's successes and they are helping us monitor our projects. Information they learn from CSSRI is being adapted to the federal effort. We assisted in writing the juniper treatment restoration prescription for the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide through the CIG grant we were awarded.

We are demonstrating how hazardous forest fuel loads can be converted into clean renewable energy.

We are demonstrating how fuel treatments can be successfully planned and implemented across jurisdictional lines.

We are also demonstrating how a successful leveraging strategy can be used to accomplish watershed restoration treatments on a landscape scale.

CSSRI has been innovative in the approach it has taken to implementing projects by skidding across the landscape.

The vegetation monitoring research that CSSRI has conducted on projects was presented at the 2009 Annual Soil and Water Conservation Society (SWCS) Conference and will be presented at the 2010 International Soil Conservation Organization (ISCO). The current SNC funded project investigating the effects of landscape scale western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) removal on soil moisture and vegetative productivity and composition within riparian/meadow habitats is model research with innovative partners including the U.C. Cooperative Extension and the University of California, Davis.

Detailed Budget Form					
State of California - Sierra Nevada Conservancy					
APPLICANT NAME: Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.					
SNC REF #:					
PROJECT TITLE: South Ash Valley Watershed Restoration Project					
PROJECT TYPE (choose one):					
<input type="checkbox"/> ACQUISITION <input type="checkbox"/> SITE IMPROVEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESTORATION <input type="checkbox"/> PRE PROJECT PLANNING					
SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS	QTY	UNIT*	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	SNC Grant Request
Staff/Personnel Expense - Project Related Wages/Benefits					
TOTAL:				\$0.00	\$0.00
Travel/Meeting Expense - Project Related					
TOTAL:				\$0.00	\$0.00
Contracts/Consultants - Project Related					
Juniper Removal by Licensed Timber Operator (LTO) - Mechanical and Hand Thinning	625	acre	\$400.00	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
TOTAL:				\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
Materials/Supplies - Project Related					
TOTAL:				\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment Use Expenses - Project Related Rental/Insurance/Maintenance/Fuel					
TOTAL:				\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment Leases/Purchases - Project Dependent					
TOTAL:				\$0.00	\$0.00
Fees - Appraisal/Permits/CEQA/Easement					
TOTAL:				\$0.00	\$0.00
DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:				\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
SECTION TWO INDIRECT COSTS	QTY	UNIT*	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	SNC Grant Request
Staff/Personnel Expense - Wages/Benefits/Consultants/Contract Labor					
TOTAL:				\$0.00	\$0.00
Printed Materials - Project related Publications/Communications/Public Outreach					
TOTAL:				\$0.00	\$0.00
Outreach/Education - Trainers fees/ facilitators/Facility Expense					
TOTAL:				\$0.00	\$0.00
Equipment Use Expenses - Insurance/Registrations/Maintenance/Rental					
TOTAL:				\$0.00	\$0.00
Performance Measure reporting					
OTHER TOTAL:				\$0.00	\$0.00
MAINTENANCE SUBTOTAL:				\$0.00	\$0.00
PROJECT TOTAL:				\$0.00	\$0.00
SECTION THREE					
Administrative Costs (Description - Not to exceed 15% of Project Total) :					
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
				\$0.00	
ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:				\$0.00	\$0.00
SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:				\$0.00	\$0.00

*Unit: Enter the appropriate unit of measure (e.g., hours = hrs., months = mos., each = ea., feet = ft., miles = mi., miscellaneous = misc., package = pkg.)

Project Budget Details						
State of California - Sierra Nevada Conservancy						
APPLICANT NAME:		Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc.				
SNC REF #:						
PROJECT TITLE		South Ash Valley Watershed Restoration Project				
PROJECT TYPE (choose one):						
<input type="checkbox"/> ACQUISITION <input type="checkbox"/> SITE IMPROVEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RESTORATION <input type="checkbox"/> PRE PROJECT PLANNING						
SECTION FOUR OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS		QTY	UNIT*	UNIT COST	Contribution	Status**
List other funding or in-kind contributors to project						
Lassen County Resource Advisory Committee - for Project Management, Project Monitoring, and Performance Reporting		500	hr.	\$50	\$25,000.00	funded
Landowner In-Kind Contribution for Road Maintenance		400	hr.	\$25	\$10,000.00	In-kind
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
					\$0.00	
Total Other Contributions:					\$35,000.00	

9) Performance Measures

a) Performance Measures for all Categories

i) Number of People Reached

The results of this project will reach all of the CSSRI partners as well as other landowners interested in the conservation and preservation of natural resources and working landscapes.

With the development of a poster presentation regarding the results of data collection, the LCFSC will be able to reach members of the public at numerous outreach opportunities and conferences the CSSRI attends.

ii) Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada

CSSRI has a very successful track record leveraging funds and anticipates being able to leverage additional resources with SNC funds

iii) Number and Type of Jobs Created

This project will result in logging and road maintenance jobs and indirectly assist the local cogeneration facility to maintain operation.

iv) Number of New, Improved or Preserved Economic Activities

This project will preserve logging, ranching, and renewable energy production activities all of which are suffering in the region.

b) Performance Measures Specific to Project Type

i) Kilowatts of Renewable Energy Production Capacity Maintained or Created

The juniper chips developed from this project will create a significant number of renewable energy kilowatts.

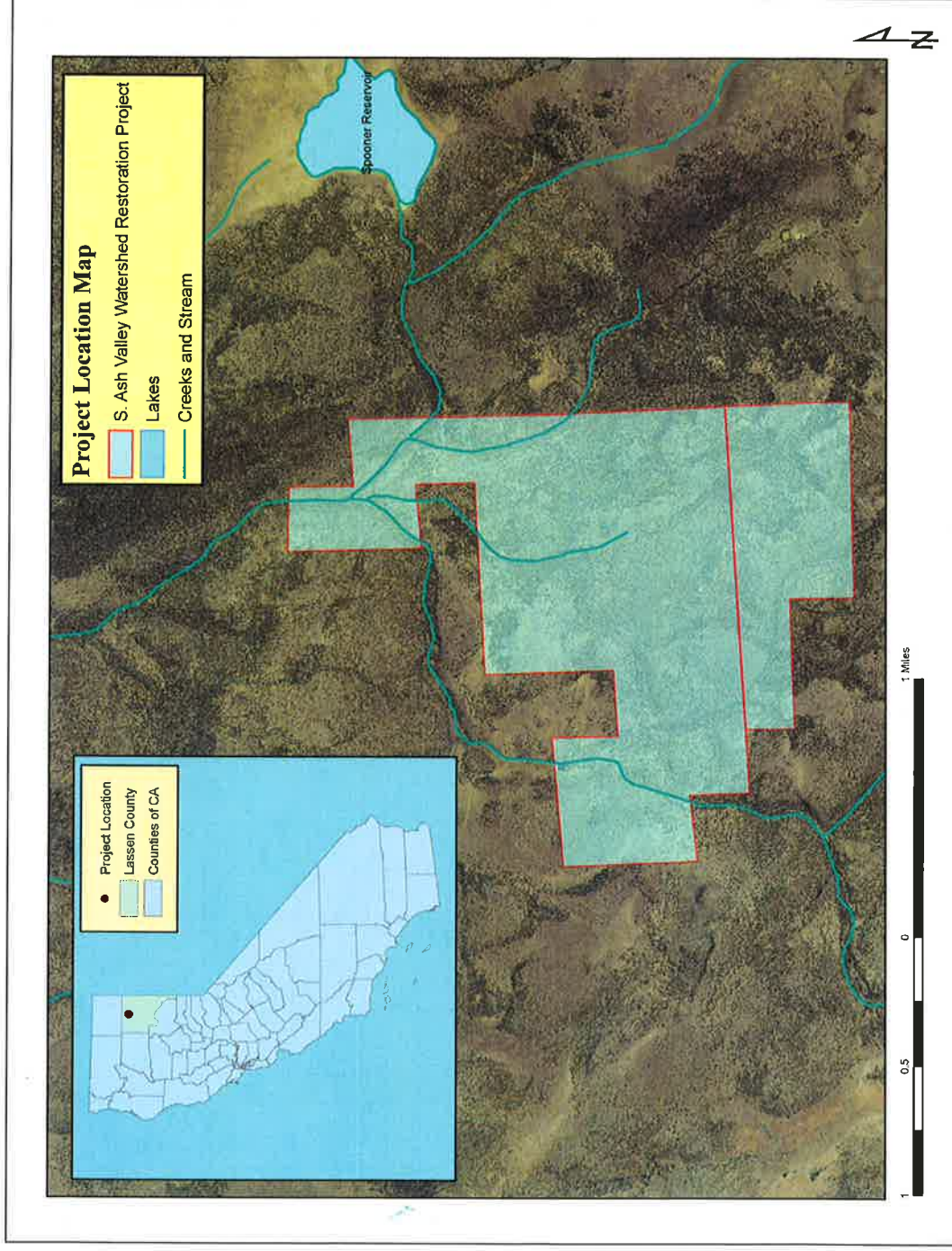
10) Environmental Setting and Impacts

The project area was historically sagebrush steppe habitat with riparian meadow habitats associated with lowlands and spring areas that has converted to juniper woodland over the last 150 years due to fire suppression and rangeland management practices (Miller et al 2005). Land within the project area and surrounding area are currently used for livestock grazing. Juniper removal treatments within the project area have met CEQA requirements. All areas are surveyed for Cultural Resources and treatments do not occur in areas where resources are identified. Botanical surveys for rare plants including Ash Valley Milk Vetch, Doublet, Prostrate buckwheat, Baker's Globe Mallow, Ash Creek Ivesia, Woolly stenotus, and Plummer's Clover are conducted prior to treatment and resources are flagged and avoided.

The project area is located within the historic range of the Greater Sage-Grouse, a CA Species of Special Concern and Federal Candidate species and treatments are intended to improve habitat for the re-establishment of the species.

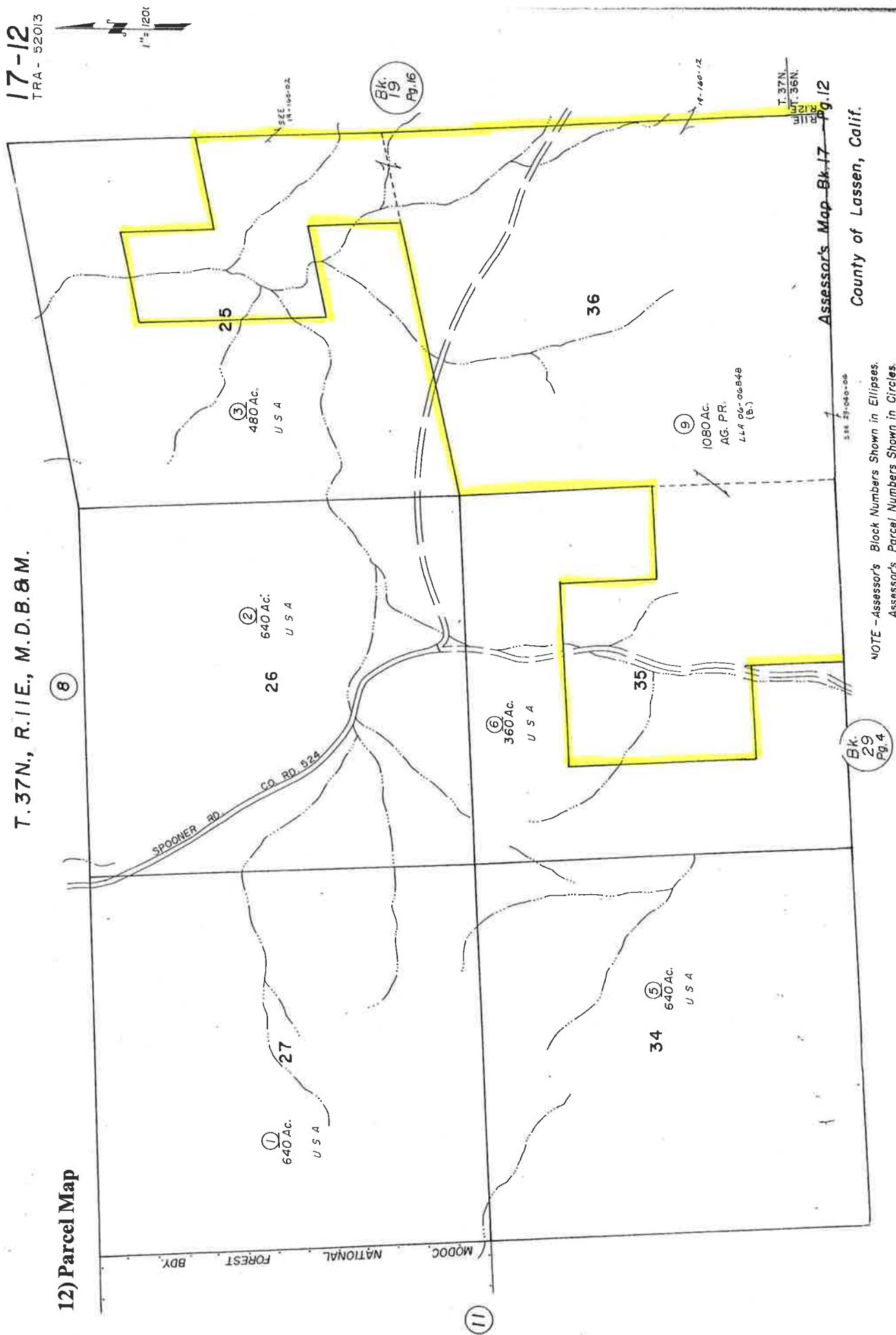
Project activities will not take place where sensitive resources have been identified and will not have an impact on the environment.

11) Project Location Map



T.37N., R.11E., M.D.B. & M.

12) Parcel Map



SEC.
21-00-12

1"=1200'

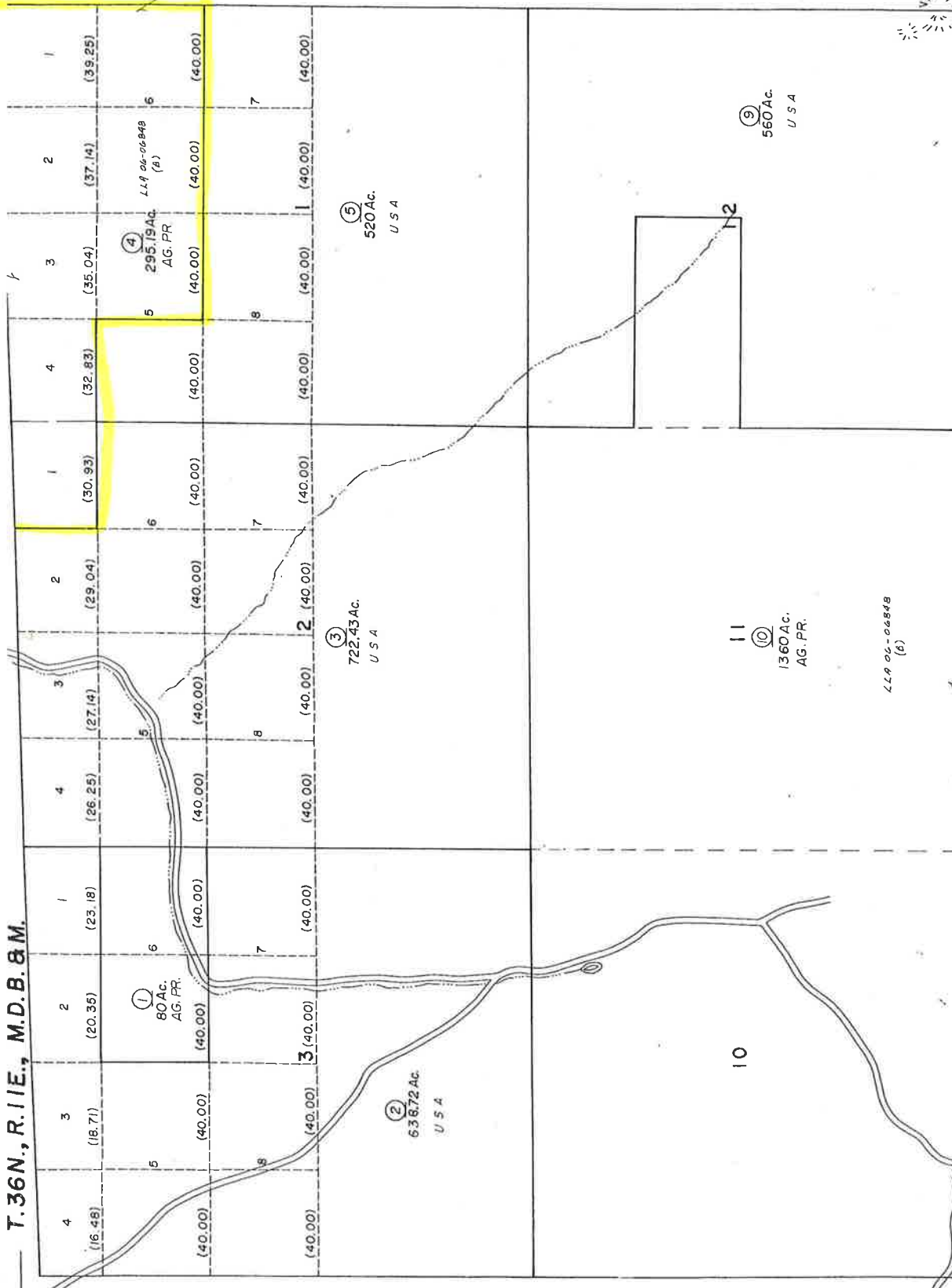
Whitinger
Mt.

Assessor's Map Bk.29 -Pg.04

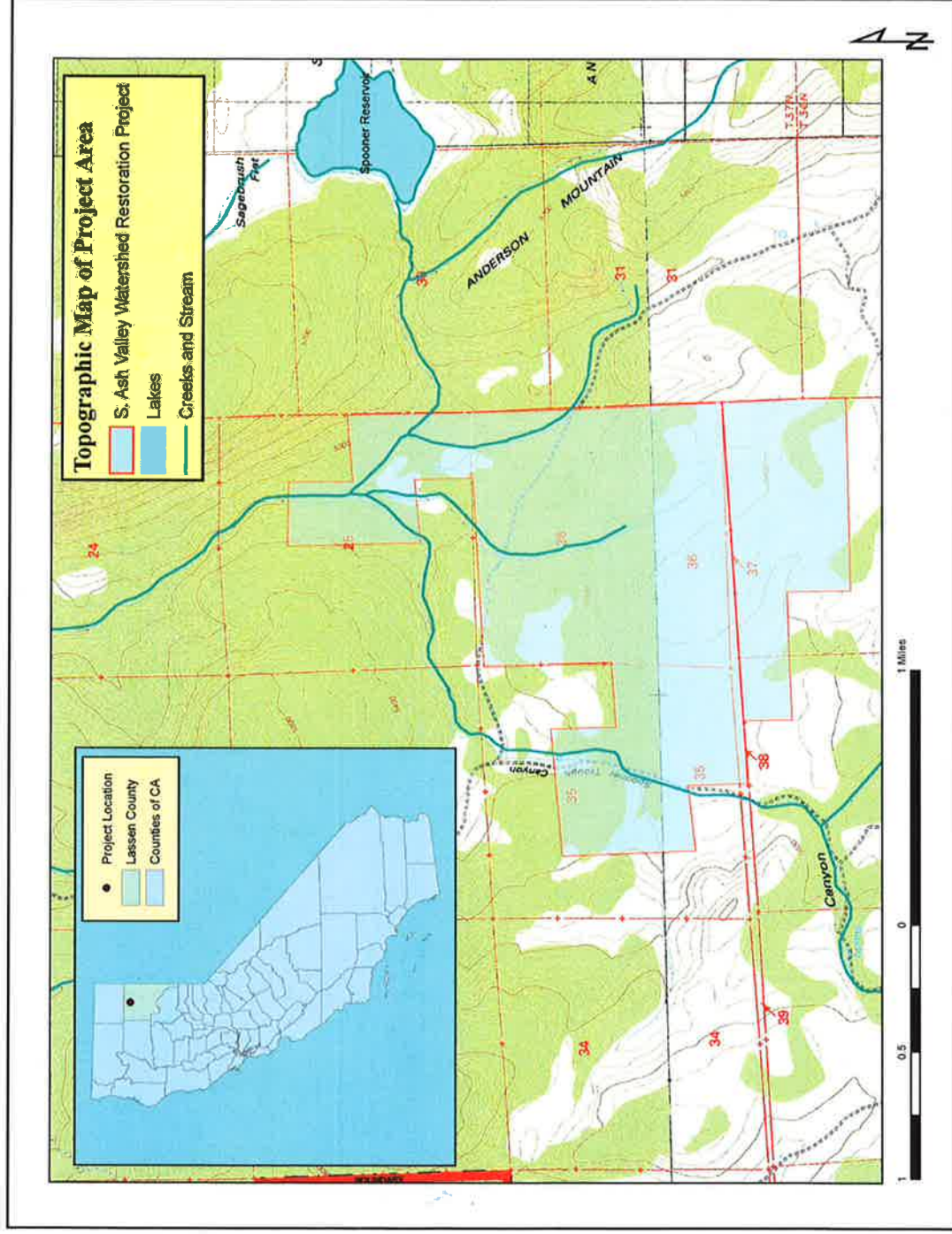
County of Lassen, Calif.

NOTE - Assessor's Block Numbers Shown in Ellipses.
Assessor's Parcel Numbers Shown in Circles.

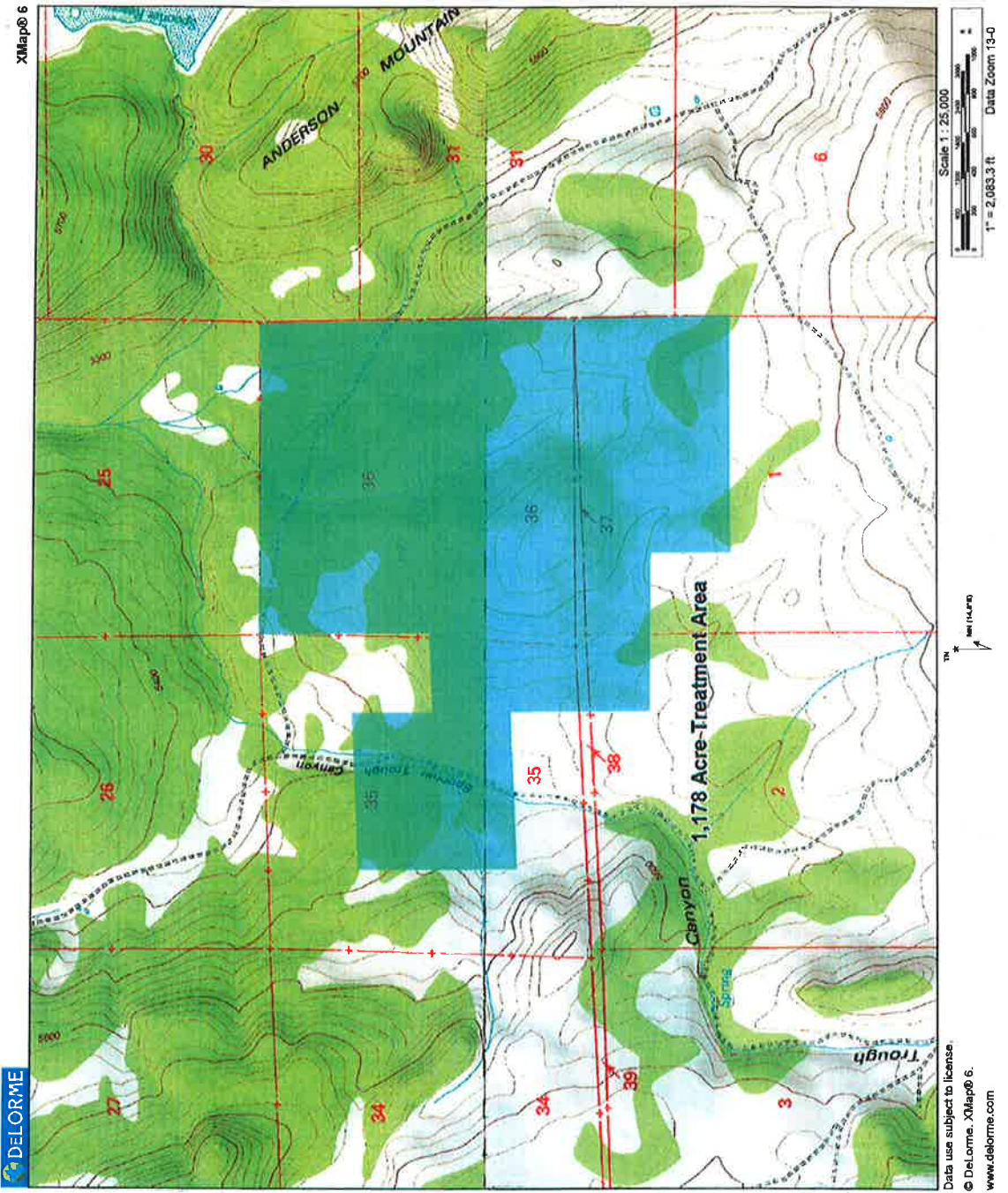
Acreage listed is prepared and checked
with available information and is for
Assessor's Office use only



13) Topographic Map



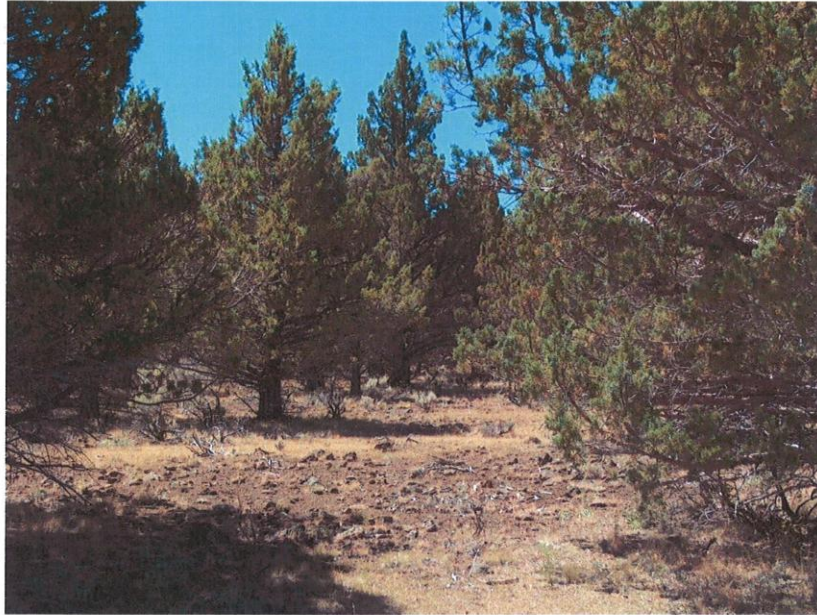
14) Site Plan



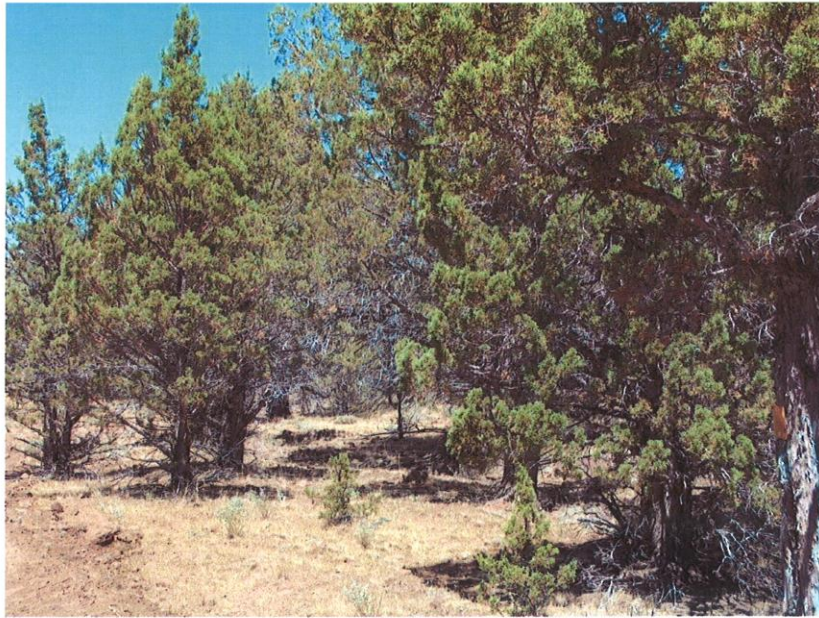
15) Photos of the Project Site



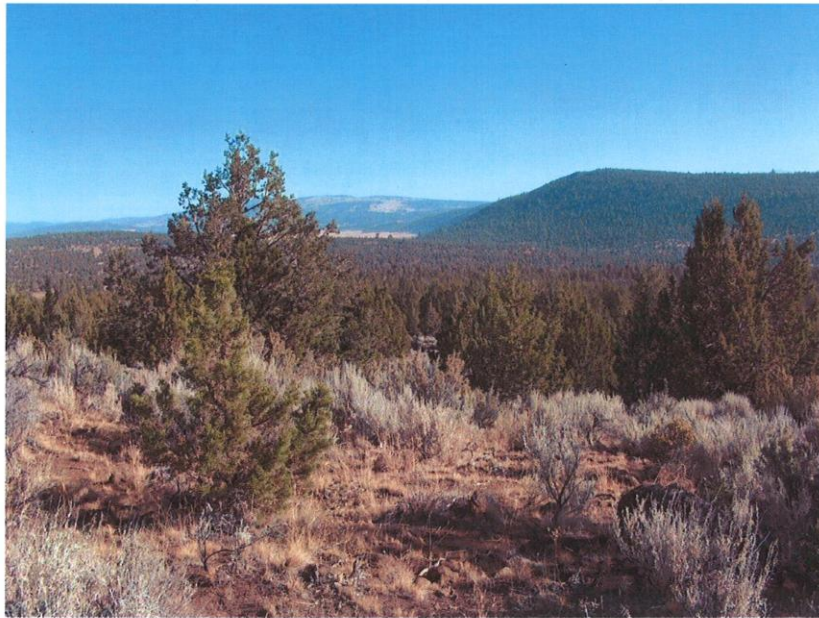
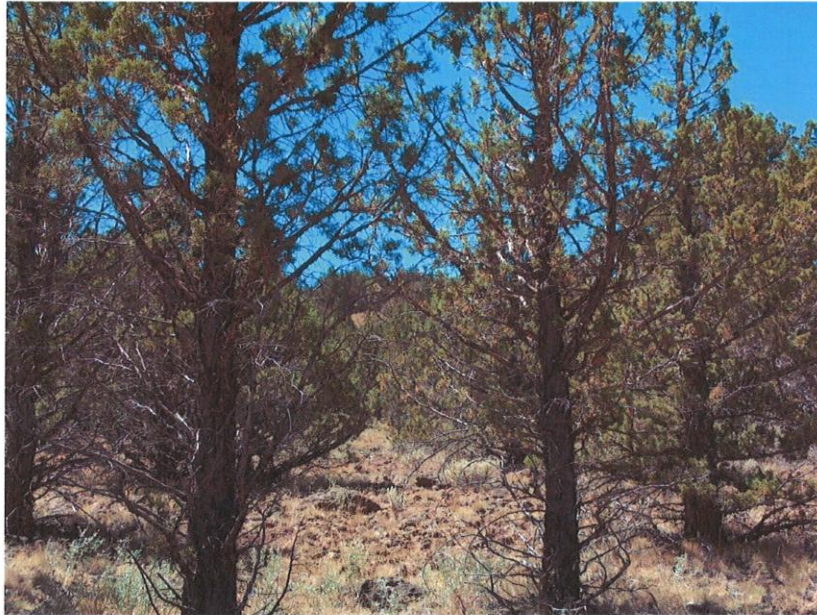




South Ash Valley Watershed Restoration Project
15) Photos of the Project Site



South Ash Valley Watershed Restoration Project
15) Photos of the Project Site



South Ash Valley Watershed Restoration Project
15) Photos of the Project Site

16) Land Tenure

The LCFSC has agreements with both the private landowner and the BLM to implement juniper removal projects and conduct monitoring as needed to document project outcomes.

Tenure has been established through the two previous SNC grants: #G0711001; #G0711005.

17) Leases or Agreements

No other leases or agreements are needed for the implementation of this project.

18) California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation

The following project is exempt from CEQA per Article 19: Categorical Exclusions, Section 15304: Minor Alterations to the Land

The Lassen County Department of Planning and Building Services has filed an exemption with the Lassen County Clerk (see attached Notice).

Notice of Exemption

To: County Clerk
County of Lassen
220 South Lassen Street
Susanville, CA 96130

From: (Public Agency) Lassen County
Department of Planning and Building Services
707 Nevada Street, Suite 5 Susanville, CA 96130
(Address)

RECEIVED

SEP -2 2010

JULIE BUSTAMANTE
LASSEN COUNTY CLERK
By Julie Bustamante Deputy

Project Title: Ash Valley Ranch Sagebrush Restoration Project

Project Location - Specific:

Ash Valley Ranch, approximately 20 miles southwest of Adin, CA in Lassen County. A.P.N. 017-120-09 and 029-040-04

Project Location - City: N/A Project Location - County: Lassen

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Removal of western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) to restore and maintain the existing natural vegetation including old growth western juniper. The project will occur on approximately 625 acres of private land in two adjacent parcels.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Lassen County Planning and Building Services

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Lassen County Fire Safe Council

Exempt Status: (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 4, 15304. Minor Alterations to Land
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The removal of western juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*) is to allow for the restoration and maintenance of existing natural vegetation to improve wildlife resources including wildlife habitat, rangeland health, and watershed conditions.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Thomas Maioli, Associate Planner Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 251-8269

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Signature: [Signature]

Date: Aug 31 2010 Title: Director

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

19) Regulatory Requirements/Permits

No additional permits or regulatory requirements are required for this project.

20) Demonstrations of Support

FS Agreement No. _____
Cooperator Tax ID No. _____
Cooperator Agreement No. _____

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Among the
USDA FOREST SERVICE, MODOC NATIONAL FOREST
And the
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ALTURAS FIELD OFFICE
And the
NORTH CAL-NEVA RESOURCE
CONSERVATION and DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, INC.
And the
COUNTIES OF LASSEN and MODOC
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
And
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION/
CALFIRE
And the
PIT RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT/
COOPERATIVE SAGEBRUSH STEPPE RESTORATION INITIATIVE

This Memorandum of Understanding is hereby entered into by and between the USDA Forest Service, Modoc National Forest, hereinafter referred to as the Forest Service, and the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Alturas Field Office, hereinafter referred to as the BLM, the North Cal-Neva Resource Conservation and Development Council, hereinafter referred to as the RC&D, the Counties of Modoc and Lassen, hereinafter referred to as the Counties, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, hereinafter referred to as CalFire and the Pit Resource Conservation District/Cooperative Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative, hereinafter referred to as CSSRI.

A. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a general framework of cooperation among the parties to the agreement, concerning development of the Northeast California Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative and implementation efforts. All parties have the common objective of conservation and enhancement of the areas natural resources as well as assisting people in the utilization and enjoyment of those resources. This cooperation serves the mutual interest of the parties and the public.

FS Agreement No. _____
Cooperator Tax ID No. _____
Cooperator Agreement No. _____

B. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTERESTS:

The Alturas Field Office of the BLM is charged with the management of 510,000 acres of public lands in Northeast California, while the contiguous Modoc National Forest administers 1.6 million acres of National Forest System Lands within those same confines. The Forest Service and BLM are dedicated to the management of the Nation's natural resources, and enjoy the responsibility of protection and management of the ecosystems inherent to National Forest and BLM administered public lands. This responsibility includes maintenance of quality air and water resources, forest and rangeland ecosystems, and socio-economic stability of associated communities.

The North Cal-Neva Resource Conservation and Development Council is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization collaborative under the sponsorship of the USDA, which seeks to promote economic activity in small rural communities, commensurate with conservation and development of adjoining private and public land resources.

The Counties of Modoc and Lassen are responsible with providing services and leadership necessary to maintain the health and safety of county residents. The Counties recognize the benefits to the counties from active participation in the protection, management, and wise use of the sagebrush steppe ecosystems that occur on private land, public lands and National Forest lands within Modoc and Lassen Counties.

CalFire bears responsibility for forest resources on private lands in California, including fire protection and California Forest Practice Act compliance oversight. CalFire also has resources to assist with implementation through various grant programs and Conservation Camp crew resources.

The Cooperative Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative is a collaborative effort of the Pit Resource Conservation District, Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc., University of California Cooperative Extension, Susanville Indian Rancheria and other supporting entities. CSSRI has developed general and individual plans for private restoration treatments within northeast California and is assisting private landowners and both the Forest Service and BLM with implementation funding.

All parties to this agreement have a mutual interest in active treatment of juniper encroachment to reduce hazardous fuels buildup, restore degraded wildlife habitat, increase watershed stability, and increase economic activity in accomplishment of these vital restoration needs.

FS Agreement No. _____
Cooperator Tax ID No. _____
Cooperator Agreement No. _____

C. FOREST SERVICE AND BLM SHALL:

1. Maintain their leadership role as the federal agencies responsible for multiple use management on their respective lands.
2. Recognize the Counties as separate entities working at the local level.
3. Make National Forest System land and BLM lands available for furtherance of joint efforts, subject to applicable Federal laws, regulations, Forest plans, BLM planning documents and subject to approval by the Forest Service or BLM officials.
4. Enter into MOUs or Interagency Agreements as needed to accomplish specific components or phases of the Northeast California Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative development, or to transfer funds, materials and expertise as needed between the parties for mutual support.
5. Actively seek funding through internal agency pathways and alternative external sources to complete the NE CA Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative.
6. Each agency shall identify a project lead to oversee their role in the strategy development.

D. THE COUNTIES SHALL:

1. Maintain their leadership role as responsible for social and economic well being of the associated communities.
2. Cooperate in the development and implementation of the Juniper Management Strategy to the extent consistent with the stated purpose of this agreement.
3. Enter into MOUs or Interagency Agreements as needed to accomplish specific components or phases of the Northeast California Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative development and implementation, or to transfer funds, materials and expertise as needed between the parties for mutual support.
4. Identify a project lead to oversee their role in the strategy development.

E. THE RC&D SHALL:

1. Maintain its leadership role in coordinating land conservation and rural economic development efforts.
2. Cooperate in the development and implementation of the Northeast California Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative to the extent consistent with the stated purpose of this agreement.
3. Assist the BLM and Forest Service in obtaining adequate funding for completion of the Northeast California Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative and in implementation efforts.
4. Enter into MOUs or Interagency Agreements as needed to accomplish specific components or phases of the Northeast California Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative development, or to transfer funds, materials and expertise as needed between the parties for mutual support.

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Cooperator Agreement No. _____

5. Identify a project lead to oversee their role in the strategy development and implementation.

F. THE CALFIRE SHALL:

1. Maintain its leadership role in coordinating forest stewardship and restoration efforts on private lands in its capacity as the recognized state forester.
2. Cooperate in the development and implementation of the Northeast California Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative to the extent consistent with the stated purpose of this agreement.
3. Assist in implementation efforts when possible through appropriate CalFire programs.
4. Enter into MOUs or Interagency Agreements as needed to accomplish specific components or phases of the Northeast California Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative development, or to transfer funds, materials and expertise as needed between the parties for mutual support.
5. Identify a project lead to oversee their role in the strategy development and implementation.

G. CSSRI SHALL:

1. Maintain its leadership role in coordinating land conservation and rural economic development efforts.
2. Cooperate in the development and implementation of the Northeast California Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative to the extent consistent with the stated purpose of this agreement.
3. Assist the BLM and Forest Service in obtaining adequate funding for implementation of the Northeast California Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative and in implementation efforts.
4. Continue its development of CSSRI treatment prescriptions and cross sharing the information with the BLM and Forest Service.
5. Continue to assist private landowners through restoration planning and the acquisition and expenditure of implementation funding.
6. Identify a project lead to oversee their role in the strategy development and implementation.

H. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY ALL PARTIES THAT:

1. To maximum extent possible, the Counties, the BLM and the Forest Service, the RC&D, CalFire and CSSRI will mutually support development and implementation of the Northeast California Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative soil and water conservation programs to promote healthy forests and rangeland ecosystems on private land and National Forests and Public Lands.
2. All specific future projects will be conducted under separate fund documents made in writing and authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU

FS Agreement No. _____
Cooperator Tax ID No. _____
Cooperator Agreement No. _____

shall not be construed to affect the jurisdiction of the Forest Service and BLM over public lands administered by the Forest Service and BLM. This MOU shall not be construed to affect private ownership or private property rights.

3. This MOU is subject to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190, January 1, 1970; 83 Stat, 853, as it relates to Forest Service lands.
4. This MOU may be terminated at any time by mutual consent of the parties, or can be terminated by one party by giving 60 days written notice to the other parties.

I. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). Any information furnished to the Forest Service or BLM under this instrument is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

J. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This instrument in no way restricts either agency or cooperator(s) from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

K. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION/TERMINATION. This MOU is an expansion of a previous agreement that is intended to formalize the participation of parties involved in sagebrush steppe restoration planning and implementation efforts. It takes effect upon the date of the latest signature, and shall remain in effect for four years from the date of execution. This MOU may be extended or amended upon written request of any of the cooperators. This MOU may be terminated at any time by mutual consent of the parties, or can be terminated by one party by giving 60 days written notice to the other parties

L. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. The principal contacts for this instrument are:

Forest Service Project Contact	BLM Project Contact
Robinson Jeffers	Curt Aarstad
Phone: (530) 233-5811	Phone: (530) 233-4666
FAX:	FAX:
E-Mail:	E-Mail:

Forest Service Administrative Contact	BLM Administrative Contact
Dina McElwain	Adele Enderlein
Phone: (530) 233-5811	Phone: (530) 233-4666
FAX:	FAX:
E-Mail:	E-Mail:

FS Agreement No. _____
Cooperator Tax ID No. _____
Cooperator Agreement No. _____

Modoc County Project Contact	North Cal-Neva Project Contact
Sean Curtis	Mark Steffek
Phone: (530) 233-3276	Phone: (530) 233-8868
FAX:	FAX:
E-Mail:	E-Mail:

Lassen County Project Contact	CalFire Contact
Brian Dahle	Scott Rosikiewicz
Phone: (530) 251-3888	Phone: (530) 294-5110
FAX:	FAX:
E-Mail:	E-Mail:

Pit Resource Conservation District/CSSRI Contact	
Tom Esgate	
Phone: (530) 310-0146	
FAX:	
E-Mail:	

M. NON-FUND OBLIGATING DOCUMENT: Nothing in this MOU shall obligate either the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Interior, Modoc County, Lassen County, the RC&D, CalFire or CSSRI to obligate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, property among the various agencies and offices of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Interior, Lassen and Modoc County, the RC&D, CalFire and CSSRI will require execution of separate agreements and be contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of each such agreement must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations.

N. ESTABLISHMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY. This MOU is not intended to, and does not create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity, by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

FS Agreement No. _____
Cooperator Tax ID No. _____
Cooperator Agreement No. _____
6/21/07

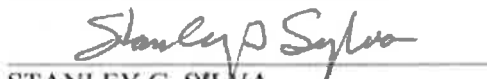
THE PARTIES HERETO HAVE EXECUTED THIS INSTRUMENT:

USDI BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ALTURAS FIELD OFFICE



TIMOTHY BURKE
FIELD OFFICE MANAGER

DATE

USDA FOREST SERVICE
MODOC NATIONAL FOREST


STANLEY G. SILVA
FOREST SUPERVISOR
7/3/07

MODOC COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS


MIKE DUNN
CHAIRMAN
7/3/07
DATE


LASSEN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS


BRIAN DAHLE
CHAIRMAN

June 26, 2007
DATE

FS Agreement No. _____
Cooperator Tax ID No. _____
Cooperator Agreement No. _____

**NORTH CAL-NEVA RESOURCE
CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL**


TERRY WILLIAMS
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

7-3-07
DATE

CALFIRE


BRAD LUTTS
LASSEN-MODOC UNIT CHIEF

7/7/07
DATE

**PIT RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
COOPERATIVE SAGEBRUSH STEPPE RESTORATION INITIATIVE**


THOMAS W. ESGATE
PROJECT DIRECTOR

7/3/07
DATE



SUSANVILLE INDIAN RANCHERIA

September 13, 2010

Mr. Jim Branham, Executive Officer
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Subject: Letter of Support for Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Application
South Ash Valley Watershed Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Branham:

The Susanville Indian Rancheria, a federally recognized Indian Tribe with aboriginal ties to the Maidu, Paiute, Pit River, and Washoe tribes in Northeastern California, supports the Lassen County Fire Safe Council's South Ash Valley Watershed Restoration Project. The Susanville Indian Rancheria supports this effort to restore the landscape to pre-European contact conditions by removing young juniper that has invaded the landscape due to land management strategies over the last 150 years. This change in the landscape has effected many of the animals, plants, water, cultural and sacred areas that are important to the traditions, ceremonies, and cultures of the aboriginal people of this region.

We have worked closely with the Lassen County Fire Safe Council and the Cooperative Sagebrush Steppe Restoration Initiative (CSSRI) on many projects including a juniper removal project on tribal lands and are impressed by the experience and capacity they bring to a project.

The Susanville Indian Rancheria supports the South Ash Valley Watershed Restoration Project and looks forward to working with the Lassen County Fire Safe Council to restore ecosystems and watersheds to their natural condition.

Sincerely,

Mr. Stacy Dixon
SIR Tribal Chairman